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JAPAN.

Report of infectious diseases.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, November 6, 1896.

SIR: In transmitting the inclosed report of infectious diseases in Japan, I have the honor to inform you that a certain number of cases of choleraic disease have undoubtedly occurred of late in Kobe, Tokyo, and Yokohama, though, for some reason, not included in the returns of home department. I have, however, succeeded in obtaining reliable information upon this point, as regards Tokyo and Yokohama, as follows:

In Tokyo, during the month of October, there were 133 cases, and from November 1 to November 3, 16 cases, reported to the police authorities as cholera. So far as I can ascertain, however, the death rate is exceedingly small, far below that of true cholera, and it is at least questionable if the majority of the cases reported are genuine. The ordinary Japanese practitioner, under the stringent regulations as to the notification of infectious disease, is apt to err on the side of safety rather than in the other direction.

As concerns Yokohama, the situation seems different. Here there were, in the city and suburbs, from October 9 to November 3, 29 cases, of which almost every one was speedily fatal. Still, so far as I am able to judge from so limited a number of cases, the disease is decreasing, rather than the reverse, and the authorities are doing all in their power to control it.

I beg, further, to call your attention to the increasing prevalence and great mortality of smallpox in Hiogo Ken, where the disease is confined chiefly to the towns of Hiogo and Kobe and their immediate neighborhood, on which account the United States consul at Kobe has deemed it advisable to treat the port as infected.

Your attention is also invited to the renewed and severe outbreak of plague in Formosa, so far confined to the district of Taipeh.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.